

Brighton helps migrants bed in

► A crowdfunded housing scheme in Brighton is one of several community efforts to support Britain's newest arrivals.

Brighton Migrant Solidarity (BMS) launched Thousand 4 £1000 in August 2015 to help house migrants unable to access other support. One year on, more than 200 people have set up standing orders of at least £1 per month. The money covers rent and a £25 weekly income for three people. Once the £1,000 a month target is reached, the project will expand.

Ahmed*, originally from east Africa, is among the many migrants in housing limbo. After legally working at various times during the 16 years he has been in the UK, his visa has again expired. With no promise of a renewal, he is unable to work and ineligible for government housing support. He spent two years homeless in Brighton, but thanks to the 'micro donations' from Brighton residents, he has now moved into safe accommodation. "I laugh now, I didn't



[Brighton residents backed a migrant housing project through local fundraising events](#)

laugh before," he said. "I was starting to feel like everyone was bad."

Jacob Berkson from BMS said the refugee crisis, which escalated in mid 2015, created a tipping point. "Suddenly there was money and people willing to put the effort in."

Elsewhere, Cardiff's ShareDYDD, Host Oxford and Room for Refugees offer similar schemes. **Not his real name.*